

O'MALLEY-BROWN 2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A BALANCED APPROACH: JOBS AND OPPORTUNITY

Jobs and Innovation

✓ ***FY2013 Capital Budget***

Over these past 12 months, the people of our State have created 47,000 new jobs – our best year of new job creation since 2005. Maryland's businesses created jobs twice as fast as our neighbors in Virginia. As a State we have now recovered nearly 80% of the jobs we lost in the Bush recession – almost twice as many as the nation as a whole. Creating jobs continues to be our top priority; our capital budget will create, support and leverage approximately 50,000 jobs

✓ ***Maryland Innovation Initiative***

Establishes a groundbreaking partnership between Maryland and its leading academic research institutions to get the most promising technologies out of the laboratories and into the marketplace, creating new jobs and opportunities in our state. In March, Maryland raised \$84 million for Maryland's innovation economy through InvestMaryland- the nation's first ever online tax credit auction to raise funds for venture capital initiatives. InvestMaryland is our state's largest venture capital initiative to date.

✓ ***Public-Private Partnerships***

Creates a transparent, accountable and predictable process for future public-private partnership infrastructure projects. Improves our definition of a public-private partnership, strengthens and shortens the legislative review process by requiring more detailed reporting up-front and a faster approval process once a partner(s) are selected. Protects our jobs by requiring an assessment of the project's impact on Maryland's current and future workforce, protects our priorities through language promoting our current policy objectives, and protects our funds by clarifying the role of state financing and an improved review and coordination process in the Executive Branch.

✓ ***Regulatory Reform***

Reduces regulatory burden on businesses. Following an Executive Order issued by Governor O'Malley last year, our state agencies conducted a comprehensive review of all regulations to identify those that could be revised, repealed or streamlined to enable economic and job growth. Thanks to the help of Maryland's business community and our dedicated citizens, more than 130 regulations were identified for reform.

Education and the Skills to Succeed

✓ ***FY2013 School Construction Funding***

Capital funding for Maryland's #1 in the nation public schools, provides our children with the skills to succeed and ensures that our schools remain competitive with significant investments: \$373 million in school construction dollars to build, renovate and "green" Maryland's schools, bringing the six-year total to \$2 billion and supporting an estimated 11,000 jobs for our families.

✓ ***Maintenance of Effort***

Supports legislative efforts to protect funding for our children's education by reforming Maintenance of Effort. Requires counties receiving state education funding to maintain their levels of per-pupil funding every year unless they obtain a waiver and slowly raises requirements for counties with lower-than-average effort to ensure that all of our children have access to a quality education regardless of location. Creates an incentive for efficiency by allowing counties to reduce funding by the amount they can reduce recurring costs and provides additional flexibility in generating local revenue.

A Sustainable Future for Maryland

✓ Sustainable Growth and Preservation Act of 2012

Allows for sustainable growth by assisting local communities in moving septic growth away from areas where it will contribute to wasteful land development practices and pollution. Creates four tiers for inclusion in local comprehensive plans to guide growth on central sewer and septic systems. Ensures that the land use and pollution impact of future Marylanders is minimized, giving us the greatest chance of success in restoring the Chesapeake Bay and protecting our rural landscape.

✓ Family Farm Preservation Act of 2012

Secures a sustainable future for Maryland's family farms and protects and strengthens Maryland's agricultural heritage and economy. Increases the exemption for agricultural properties from the calculation of the estate value up to \$5 million- the same level allowed for Federal taxes. Reduces the current estate tax rate from 16% to 5% to protect Maryland's farms valued over \$5 million. Protects our state funds through a mandate requiring recapture of the tax obligation if the farm is taken out of agricultural use within 10 years.

✓ Bay Restoration Fund

Provides funding for upgrades to wastewater treatment plants that dramatically reduce levels of nitrogen and phosphorus entering the Atlantic Coastal Bays, the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries by doubling the Bay Restoration Fee. By allowing us to make green upgrades to wastewater treatment plants, we will continue to greatly reduce the pollution flowing into our Bay. Twenty-five percent of the reduction in nitrogen pollution we've achieved together these past three years is a result of these wastewater plant upgrades. That's second only to the record number of cover crops planted by Maryland's farmers, in terms of reducing nitrogen pollution.

Improving Maryland's Quality of Life

✓ Health Benefit Exchange Act of 2012

Establishes a one-stop, transparent marketplace where individuals and small businesses can compare rates, benefits and quality among private insurance plans to ensure all Marylanders have access to affordable healthcare. Based on recommendations established through an open and collaborative stakeholder process, puts in place policies to guide the Exchange's operations to ensure quality coverage, reduce costs, and assist consumers in choosing the best plan for their family.

✓ Maryland Health Improvement and Disparities Reduction Act of 2012

Explores ways to reduce health disparities in Maryland through a \$4 million pilot program for a series of geographically based 'Health Enterprise Zones' in underserved communities. Community-based organizations and local health departments may apply for the program; if accepted, organizations will receive grant funds to increase their health services. Incentives such as loan assistance repayment, tax credits, priority funding for electronic health records, and preference to enter the Maryland Patient Center Medical Home Program will be used to attract practitioners, working in conjunction with a local applicant, to the program.

Dignity and Equality for All

✓ The Civil Marriage Protection Act of 2012

Protects civil marriage rights and religious freedom equally; protects the dignity of every individual in Maryland by allowing same-sex couples to get a government-issued marriage license while including important provisions to ensure protection for religious institutions. Ensures all of our children have the opportunity to live in a loving, caring, committed and stable home, protected equally under the law.

✓ Legislative Redistricting

Restructures Maryland's legislative districts to accurately reflect the demographics and population trends of our state in the past decade. Enhances minority voting rights, including creating the first single-member Hispanic district in Maryland's history. Pays exceptional attention to respecting natural and political boundaries, protects communities, and results in districts that are compact and contiguous.